

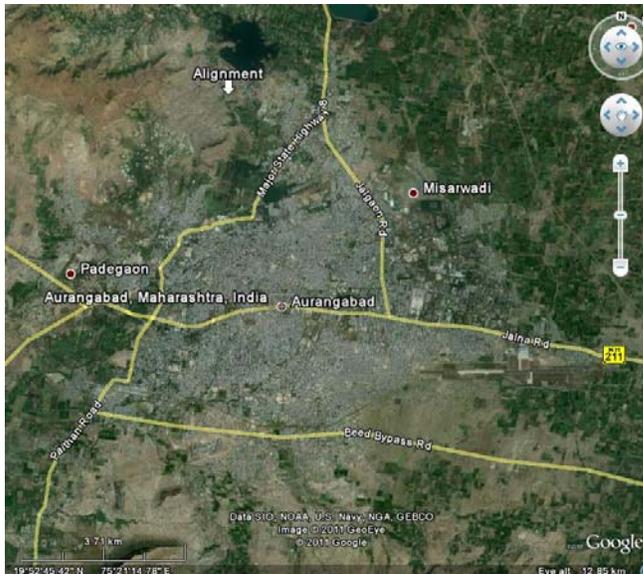
Name of the Monument/ site: Aurangabad Caves

LOCATION :- The Aurangabad caves are located on a hill near Bibi-ka- Maqbara on the outskirts of Aurangabad City at a distance of 5 km from the Aurangabad Bus Stand and 9 km from the Railway Station.

Common Name	Aurangabad Caves
Longitude & Latitude	Group I Lat. 19°55'2.54"N Long. 75°18'42.27"E
	Group II Lat. 19°55'18.05"N Long. 75°19'5.77"E
Village	Aurangabad
Police Station	Aurangabad
Taluka	Aurangabad
District	Aurangabad
Distance from District Headquarter	

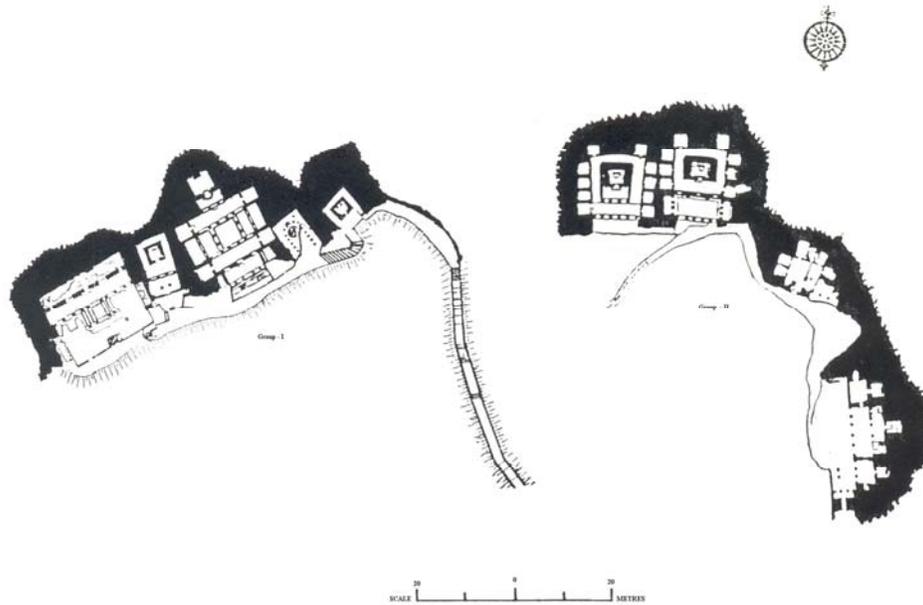


Entrance of the Vihara, Cave-7, Aurangabad Caves



GOOGLE ROAD MAP

CULTURAL INFORMATION :-



Site Plan of Aurangabad Caves

The Aurangabad Caves, situated in the eastern extension of the Sahyadri hills on the northern periphery of the city, are three groups separated by each other by a distance of nearly a kilometer. All caves belong to the Buddhist faith. The third group is left unfinished and moreover appears like natural caves and inaccessible.

Cave 1

This is an incomplete excavation (18.95 X 23.16 m) datable to circa 6th century A. D. It was intended to be a big-pillared monastery; but the work was stopped due to inferior quality of rock. The cave had four advanced pillars forming a sort of portico in front of verandah and supporting overhanging rock mass.

The façade wall is pierced with windows, door and an elaborate central portal. The door-frame shows nagas on both sides accompanied by their consorts acting as door keepers. The window frames are decorated with amorous couples and abstract linear designs. The specialty of the cave is beautifully carved pillars with foliage, leaves, geometrical designs, dwarf at corner and the bracket figures. It has the panels of Buddha flanked by Padmapani and Vajrapani and a high relief of Seven-mortal-Buddha's in preaching attitude.



Façade Cave 1

Cave 2

It is a small (13.65 X 6.45 m) excavation belonging to circa 5th century A. D. and dedicated to Mahayana Buddhism, which introduced worship of Buddha and Bodhisattva in image form. On plan the cave resembles the contemporary structural temple, which is rare in rock-cut examples.

The cave consists of a verandah and circumambulatory path surrounding the square sanctum which houses Lord Buddha, seated in preaching attitude on lion-throne. On either



Chaityagriha , Cave 4

side of the head of Buddha small figures are seen floating on clouds, carrying garlands and food for offerings. This panel was once painted, but nothing substantial has survived. On either side of sanctum doorway gigantic figures of Avalokiteshvara and Maitreya Buddha hold Buddha-dvaja (Banner of Buddha). The wall of the sanctum, circumambulatory wall and a verandah are relieved with many figures of Lord Buddha in gestures of preaching.

Cave 3

This Mahayana cave (24.60 X 19.10 m) is the grandest monastery of the first group datable to circa 5th century A. D. It consists of a pillared verandah with a chamber at each end, a hypostyle hall with two cells and one pillared chapel at each side, a pillared antechamber leading to a sanctum at the back.

The interior of the sanctum presents a most spectacular tableau with groups of devotees kneeling on the floor with folded hands looking towards Lord Buddha, seating in preaching attitude, attended by a bejeweled Bodhisattvas on either side. The door-frame of the sanctum consists, amorous figures in small panels and nagas acting as guards. The fluted square pillars beautifully carved with foliage, leaves, geometrical designs, dwarf at corner and amorous couples in the circle. This cave is the only example in Western India where a Jataka story is represented in stone.

Cave 4

It is a Hinayana chaityagriha (10.25 X 6.75 m) datable to circa 3rd century A. D. It has a rectangular hall with an apsidal arrangement of pillars (broken) dividing into nave and side aisles. The high cylindrical drum and bulbous dome are placed at the rear side of the hall. The roof of the chaitya is vaulted and shows wooden design. The tri-forum above the pillars is divided into panels, which probably contained paintings, which are missing now.

Cave 4 (a)

In 1977, the Archaeological Survey of India discovered the Lord Buddha image, carved directly in the living rock, which had been hidden behind the debris between cave 4 and 5. It appears to have been carved in the style of the 5th century A.D. This cave belongs to Mahayana faith. The sculpture of Lord Buddha is seated on a lion throne in preaching attitude, accompanied by Bodhisattvas.

Cave 5

It is a small monastery of Mahayana (7.70 X 11.17 m) datable to circa 5th century A.D. The façade is now missing, but the available remains show that, there was a cell at either end. On plan the sanctum resembles the contemporary structural temple, this is rare in rock-cut examples.

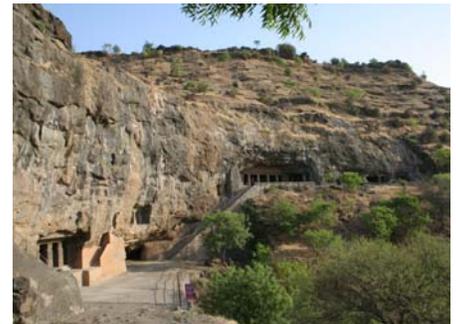
The sanctum surrounded by circumambulatory pathway houses Lord Buddha in meditation (dhyana-mudra) flanked by



Entrance of the Vihara, Cave-7



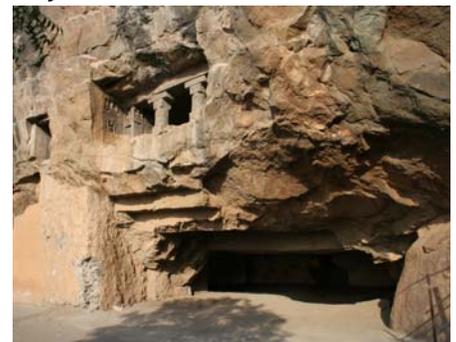
Musicians along with a dancer, Cave-7



General View, 2nd group



Façade, cave 7



Cave 8 & 9

Avalokiteshvara and Maitreya-Buddha on either side, holding fly-whisks. Above on two sides are flying figures carrying garlands. Façade wall also decorated with the number of panels of Lord Buddha accompanied with attendants.

Cave 6

It has (17.50 X 17.70 m) the combined characteristics of a monastery and a temple and is datable to circa 7th-8th centuries A. D. This monastery belongs to Vajrayana faith, which introduced various deities for worshipping in Buddhism. The pillared verandah (broken) consists of a sanctum with its antechamber in the centre, surrounded by a passage with cells on each side and two in the back. The Buddha image in the square sanctum housing is in preaching attitude with kneeling devotees.

Eastern groups consists only women. Lord Buddha flanked by Bodhisattvas on ground holding fly-whisks and flying couples in clouds with garlands and food for offering. The sanctum is guarded by gigantic figures of Bodhisattvas was accompanied by their attendants. The cells on the rear wall contain images of Lord Buddha and doorway flanked by Bodhisattvas. The verandah clearly shows some vestiges of painting with floral and geometrical designs.

Cave 6 (a)

This is small cave, was an attempt to combine the two religious both Buddhism and Hinduism. This cave was hidden under heavy debris for a long time and was exposed recently. On the rear wall, the figure of Ganesha is flanked by the figures of Kali and Durga. On the western wall a panel of Saptamatrika with Virabhadra Shiva standing gracefully. On the Eastern wall the figures of Lord Buddha carved in bold relief.

Cave 7

It is the best monastery (21.17 X 17.55 m) in the second group datable to circa 7th- 8th centuries A.D. This monastery belongs to Vajrayana faith. The monastery has clusters of sculptures, which are the best specimens at Aurangabad Caves. The monastery consists of a pillared verandah flanked by pillared chapel, square sanctum in the center, surrounding by a circumambulating passage with three cells in each side and two in back.

The cells at the rear of the circumambulation as well as the sanctum contain a sculpture of a Lord Buddha seated on a Lion throne in preaching mudra. The pillared chapel in verandah has the panel of Hariti-Pancika on the East and six Buddhist standing goddesses preceded by Padmapani and Buddha on the West. The entrance door of the verandah has Avalokiteshvara as savior as the 'Asamahabhayas' (the eight great perils). On either side of the sanctum entrance Buddhist female deities carved with their attendants. Inside of the sanctum on the Western wall is a beautiful composition of a dancing female in the midst of seated female musicians playing different musical instruments. The



Cave 10



Female figurine, cave 10



Cave 7

square pillars beautifully carved with foliage, leaves, geometrical designs, dwarf at corner and couples in the circles.

Cave 8 – 8 a

This is the only double storeyed excavation in Aurangabad Caves. It was intended to be a double storey monastery but the work was stopped after excavating unfinished cell in upper floor. Both floor left unfinished due to the porous nature of rock. The upper floor consists same panel of Buddha. Due to unavailability of proper plans and sculptures it is difficult to fix the time of excavation. This cave gives as an idea of the processes of excavation.

Cave 9

It contains two excavations, which are marked as 9 and 9a both of which are incomplete. Cave 9 (21.10 X 26.80 m) is unique with three sanctum complexes approached from an oblong verandah. This excavation belongs to Vajrayana faith. The central sanctum consists of an antechamber fronted by a pillared verandah with two unfinished cells. All the sanctum houses the figures of Lord Buddha in preaching postures and the doorway guarded by serpent figures. The wall of the cave contains the huge figures of Buddhist deities. These figures with striking headdress, big earlobes, and necklaces are carved gracefully. On the Western wall of the verandah, Buddha is carved in Mahaparinirvan-mudra (16 feet long). The square pillars are plain in nature.

The Aurangabad caves present a glorious chapter of the Buddhist faith which was already on decline after 7th century A.D in India. The famous Buddhist settlements at Ajanta and Ellora had vanished or were in declining stage. This period of Buddhism witnessed rise of Tantrism and known as Vajrayana. This included increased set of gods and goddesses, complex rituals and elaborated canonical texts. This fact was also reflected in art and architecture. There are very few examples recording Vajrayana faith of Buddhism in Western Indian rock cut architecture and Aurangabad caves is one such shining example.

The robust Buddha figures give a sense of power within peace and rhythmic arrangement of sculptures break dullness inside the caves. The female figures are notable for their expressive physiognomical and well-wrought and rounded anatomical structuring. All the female figures sport exotic and highly sophisticated hairdos bold and daring stylistic distortions attempted here serve to heighten scene of perspective. The surviving form of Buddhism today in the world is largely based on Vajrayana faith of Buddhism. In this context art and architectural forms enduring at Aurangabad Caves have universal value.



Façade cave 2



Chaityagriha , Cave 4



Entrance of the Vihara, Cave-7



Musicians along with a dancer, Cave-7

PROTECTION STATUS :-

Notification No No. LXXI of AHMASR (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951 dated 28th November, 1951

New Classification A, B, C

Category A

World Heritage Sites and those monuments which have been included in the Tentative list of World Heritage sites

Category B

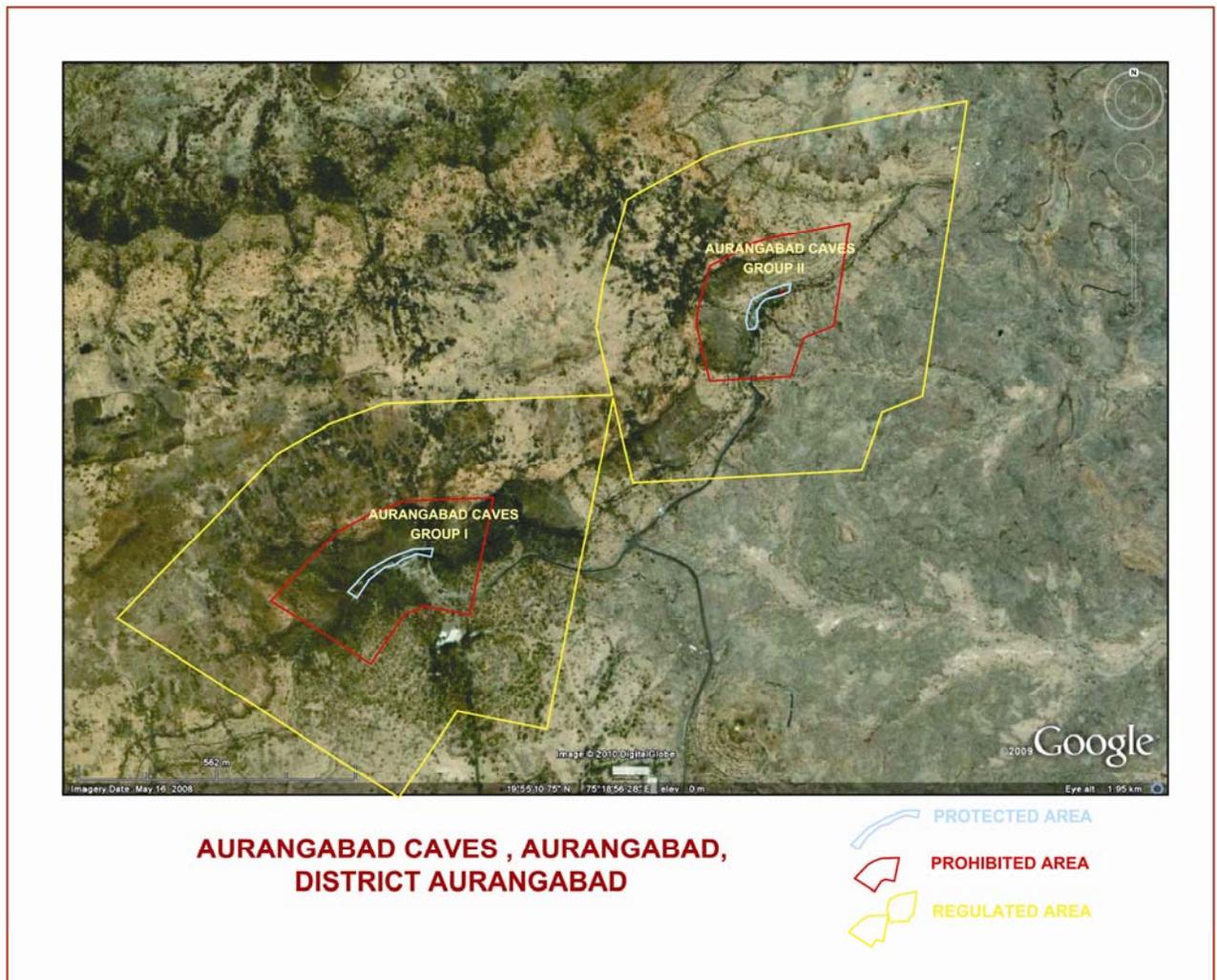
Ticketed Monument

Category C

Monument located in densely populated urban areas and most sensitive from construction activity point of view

Status Non living

GOOGLE DEMARCATION :



Google earth images demarcated with protected, prohibited and regulated areas

Under section of 20 A and B of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010 areas up to 100 meters from the Protected limits and further beyond it up to 200 meters near or adjoining protected monuments to be prohibited and regulated areas respectively for purposes of both mining operation and construction whoever violate these provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extends to two years or with fine up to Rs. 1,00,000 (Rupees One lakh) or with both, under section 30 A and 30 B

TOURIST INFORMATION :-

Opening and Closing Days and Timing **Everyday**
Sunrise to Sunset

Ticketes / Receipts

Admission Tickets for **Indian Citizen** (per head) ₹ 5/-

Admission Tickets for **SAARC & BIMSTEC** countries Citizen (per head for citizen Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Afghanistan, Maldives, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar – as per gazette of India No 100 dated 5th March 2008) ₹ 5/-

Admission Tickets for **Foreigners** (per head) ₹ 100/-

Video filming charges (per day) ₹ 25/-
For exterior use only

Below 15 years free admission

Other charges

Filming

- Filming of protected monument is allowed only on payment of ₹ 5000/- per day per monument in the form of demand draft from a nationalized bank in favour of “Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad Circle, Aurangabad “payable at Aurangabad. If you are interested in the proposal, you may intimate this office regarding the date of filming and submit Rs. 5000/-per day for each monument along with duly completed application in **Form IX**
- For filming operation, an amount of ₹ 10,000/- towards “Security deposit “ in the Post office saving account at GPO, Aurangabad after obtaining authorization letter from this office. The security deposit may also be submitted in the form of demand draft of nationalized bank in favor of “Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Aurangabad Circle “payable at Aurangabad. The security deposit will be released and returned if no damage is caused to the monument during filming operation. A no damage certificate from the local monument in charge and a VHS cassette of filming operation is required for release of security deposit.

**Tourist
Facilities**

Ticketed booking counters	Available
Car parking	Open space available for parking
Toilets	Under construction
Portable drinking water facilities	Available
Cafeteria and souvenir shops	No
Sales counters	Available
Visitors movement plan	No
Dust bins	Available
Clock rooms	No
Entrance plazas	No
Resting areas	No
Pathways	Available
Approach roads	Available
Signage's	Yes
Free literature (e.g. pamphlets)	Yes
Facilities for differently abled	No

Tourist Flow & Revenue statements :

Visitors & Revenue statements for the period of April 2005 to August 2011 for Aurangabad Caves

Financial year	Indian visitors	Foreign visitors	In Indian currency		In Foreign currency	Foreign Exchange Collection	Total Revenue in Indian currency
	(A)	(B)	From Indian Visitors	From Foreign Visitors	US Dollar	(against Col.E)	(C+D+F)=G
April 2005 to March 2006	28540	2132	142700	107400	2116	92479	342579
April 2006 to March 2007	28728	1712	143640	83200	1760	76409	303249
April 2007 to March 2008	36854	1482	184270	59300	1778	69381	312951
April 2008 to March 2009	36401	1432	182005	143200	----	----	325205
April 2009 to March 2010	9062	192	45310	19200	----	----	64510
April 2010 to March 2011					----	----	
	46508	2197	232540	199000			431540
April 2011 to August-2011	19700	382	98500	38200	----	----	136700

Do & Don't

- The visitors are requested not to touch the surface of the monument or go very near to them.
- Smoking, spitting and throwing garbage within the monument and premises is strictly prohibited.
- Photography with stand and flash light is not allowed in the monument.
- Without the permission of Director General Video filming inside the monument is not allowed.

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